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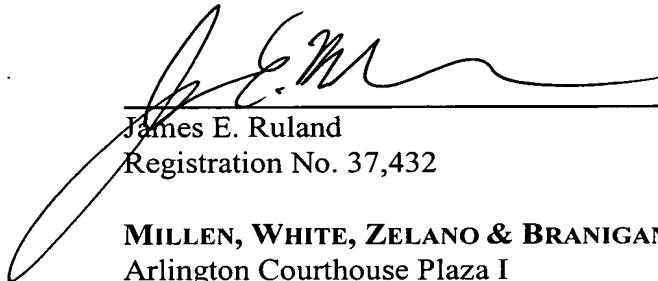
DEC 21 2000

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Kifle for the suggested amendment to claim 20 to obviate this rejection. Applicant has made such an amendment to claim 20, and consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn. Please note that this amendment was not made to distinguish the prior art.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues when can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ruland
Registration No. 37,432

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza I
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 812-5338
Internet Address: ruland@mwzb.com

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